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WDTR

10 Sep 56

SUBJECT: R-W Responsibility in Connection with the WS 117L Program

TO: Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation
ATTN: Dr. Ramo

1. For some time, the obligation undertaken by the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation on behalf of the Western Development Division has included certain tasks in support of USAF interest in satellite vehicles. The purpose of this letter is to define further the specific future duties seen for the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation in connection with the recently approved Weapons System 117L (Advanced Reconnaissance System (ARS), management responsibility for which has been assigned to the Western Development Division. The following guidance is to enable continued planning by your company to provide these services. Separate action is currently being taken to revise the work statement of Contract AF 18(600)-1190 to properly include the requirements of this letter.

2. In general, the WS 117L program encompasses a system development contract plus supporting technical development a number of ARDC centers. The Air Force plans to contract with the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation for the development of the ARS. Lockheed will be the prime systems contractor and have overall systems responsibility.

3. A part of the ARS program involves very close interaction with the WS 107A program. Also, it is important that the WS 117L program be carried out with minimum interference to the WS 107A program and maximum mutual support between the two programs. In those areas of interaction between WS 107A and WS 117L, in particular, the integration of the powered orbiting vehicle with the ICBM vehicle from both the development and testing point of view, the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation will provide technical advice and studies, as needed, to the Assistant for WS 117L, Technical Operations, WDD, for assistance in his direction of the program. Ramo-Wooldridge will also be responsible for furnishing similar technical support on the problems of the ICBM-ARS integration to other participants in the ARS program as requested by the Assistant for WS 117L.

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4. An additional area in which the assistance of the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation is desired is in conducting, on request of the Western Development Division, such additional systems studies, review and criticisms of various reports, proposals, and technical work statements, and operational research studies as may be required to permit the Western Development Division to intelligently guide the efforts of the prime systems contractor and the related technical development program.

5. It is felt that the above functions could best be performed by a nucleus of permanent Ramo-Wooldridge personnel who would become intimately familiar with ARS problems, supplemented from time to time by other specialists as the problems at hand may require. For planning purposes, it is estimated that for the balance of FY 1957 the engineering manpower required of the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation for the WS 117L program will be about six full time engineers or scientists.

6. The security factor of your participation in the ARS program will require special consideration. Particularly high security sensitivity is associated with the ARS as a national reconnaissance effort since compromise or premature disclosure of this endeavor could result in serious national embarrassment and possible subsequent loss in the operational utility of the system and the resulting intelligence. For example, the very fact that the USAF has an approved satellite program is, in itself, classified as SECRET information.

/s/ O. J. Ritland
O. J. RITLAND
Colonel, USAF
Commander

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